



US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



407056

## Informational meetings

EPA is holding a public meeting Tuesday, Dec. 1, so you can learn more about the latest developments regarding the Kalamazoo River cleanup.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 622 Allegan St., Plainwell.

EPA representatives and other officials will make a formal presentation and then be available to discuss site activities with you individually. If you need special accommodations at the meeting, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Don de Blasio (see below) by Nov. 24.

EPA will hold a separate meeting Thursday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 100 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, to update the community on the Allied Landfill operating unit of the Allied Paper Superfund site.

## Contact EPA

For more information or if you have comments about the Kalamazoo River cleanup contact:

### Don de Blasio

Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 5 (SE-7J)

77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL  
60604-3590

312-886-4360 or 800-621-8431,  
Ext. 4360.

weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
deblasio.don@epa.gov

## For more information

You can read more information about the Kalamazoo River cleanup online at: [www.epa.gov/region5/sites/kalproject](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/kalproject).

# Cleanup Plan on Track for #2 Dam

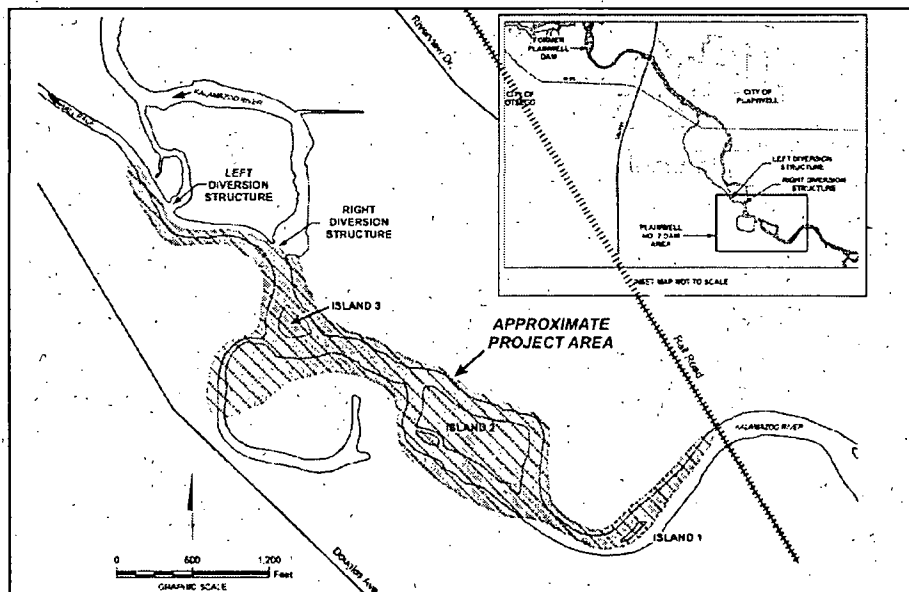
Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

November 2009

During the 2009 construction season near Plainwell #2 Dam, contractors hired by responsible party Georgia-Pacific LLC removed contaminated soil along the north side of the Kalamazoo River and restored nearly a mile of riverbank. GP contractors cleared, excavated and restored about 4,900 linear feet of riverbank and disposed of 4,725 cubic yards of soil and debris at the Allied Waste C&C Landfill in Marshall, Mich., and at Ottawa County Farms Landfill in Coopersville, Mich. The cleanup is occurring about three miles upstream of the recently completed Plainwell cleanup (see map) and includes a two-mile stretch of the Kalamazoo River.

Depending on weather conditions, clearing work and access road construction may occur on the south side of the Kalamazoo River during the winter months in preparation for cleanup activities in 2010. Cleanup work on the north and south sides of the river will remove 90 percent of the PCB-contaminated soil from the area. This project is estimated to cost about \$10 million.

Setting the stage for this year's cleanup work, in June Georgia-Pacific and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency entered into a legal agreement committing the paper company to conducting an emergency cleanup in the Plainwell #2 Dam area. During the last two years Georgia-Pacific performed significant soil and sediment (mud) sampling efforts in this location. Based on these samples, EPA and Georgia-Pacific entered into an agreement for the cleanup of the area near the #2 Dam to stop the continuing release of PCBs. PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are chemical compounds with common industrial uses. At high concentrations and exposures they can cause illness in people and wildlife. Having the cleanup occur under a legal agreement allows EPA and GP perform what is called a "time critical removal action" so the work can start sooner rather than later and will protect people and the environment from exposure to PCBs.



In addition to the work at the Plainwell #2 Dam area, other cleanup activities have occurred or are ongoing on other Kalamazoo River sites:

### Kalamazoo River/Portage Creek

#### Supplemental cleanup studies

A February 2007 legal agreement required additional study of the Kalamazoo River and Portage Creek. Planners divided the river into seven areas for the additional study. The latest work was done on Area 1 that consists of the Kalamazoo River between Morrow Dam and Plainwell, and Portage Creek between Cork Street and the Kalamazoo River.

Final soil sampling is being completed in Area 1, from the downtown Kalamazoo area to Plainwell #2 Dam. The final sampling activities include side channels of the river to determine further contamination. Underlying ground water sampling is also occurring next to the recently completed Plainwell emergency cleanup. Ground water is an underground supply of fresh water. Study data will be submitted in September 2010, about one year ahead of schedule.

### Mill updates

#### Plainwell Mill

Phase 2 of the site investigation at the Plainwell Mill is under way. Soil and ground water samples will be

collected over the next six weeks and results are expected in February 2010.

### Landfill updates

#### 12th Street Landfill

EPA will complete its review of the landfill design in 2009. As part of the landfill design, Weyerhaeuser will consolidate waste material, construct a landfill cap and install a ground water monitoring system in 2010.

#### Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill

The EPA and Georgia-Pacific legal settlement for design and cleanup at the Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill has been approved by a federal District Court. Georgia-Pacific will consolidate waste materials, construct a permanent landfill cap and install a ground water monitoring system. The company will complete design work in 2010 and construct the landfill cap and ground water system in 2011.

#### Allied Paper Landfill

Millennium, the responsible party for the Allied Paper Landfill, submitted to EPA on Oct. 29, 2009, possible alternatives for the cleanup of this operable unit of the site. There will be a public meeting on the cleanup alternatives at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 3, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo. From the list of alternatives, EPA will pick a proposed cleanup plan for the Allied Landfill in the summer of 2010 and will finalize the plan late in 2010.

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